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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/059,946	01/29/2002	Mehrdad Nadooshan	501019-A-01-US (Nadooshan)	7166
7590 04/07/2006			EXAMINER	
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP Suite 205 1300 Post Road Fairfield, CT 06430			NOBAHAR, ABDULHAKIM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2132	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/059,946

Applicant(s)

NADOOSHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Abdulahakim Nobahar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6, 9-15 and 19-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4,5,7,8 and 16-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

1. This communication is in response to applicants' response received on 01/17/2006.
2. Claims 13, 24 and 25 are amended.

3. Applicants on page 7, line 16 of the Remarks state that "Applicants query whether the appropriate rejection is under Section 103."

The double patenting rejection is withdrawn. *In re Berg, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (FED CIR 1998)*

4. Applicants' arguments regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) has been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. Applicants on page 9, lines 6-7 of the Remarks argue that "Thus, Hadfield does not disclose or suggest authenticating a user to one or more groups using user information stored in a computer file associated with said user."

Examiner respectfully disagrees and asserts that the Hadfield on page 81, paragraphs 2-4 discloses that the user information is used to authenticate the user. The Hadfield also on page 81, paragraph 7 and on page 83, paragraph 3 discloses that the user information (ID and password) entered by user at the beginning of the log-on process is compared with the user information stored in the user account in a database. The user account is the computer file that is associated with the user. If the user information in a computer file or in a database is not associated with the user, how else

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the information belonged to a particular user could be retrieved for authentication purpose.

6. Applicants, further, on page 8, argue that Hadfield stores user information in a central database. Independent claims of the application only recite that "user information stored in a computer file associated with said user" without referring to the location of the computer file. In response to applicants' argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., location of the stored user information) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

8. Examiner, however, in light of the above submission maintains the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6, 9-15 and 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Windows NT Server 4 Security Handbook" by Lee Hadfield, Dave Hatter, Dave Bixler, 1997 (hereinafter Hadfield).

Regarding claims 1, 13 and 22-25, Hadfield discloses:

computationally verifying an identity of said user (see, for example, page 80, paragraph 4; page 81, paragraphs 2 and 3; pages 168-169; pages 350-351; page 432, paragraph 5); and

computationally verifying a membership of said user with said one or more groups (see, for example, page 80, paragraph 4 and 5; page 83, paragraphs 3 and 4 pages 168-169; page 174, last paragraph),

wherein said verifying computations are performed substantially simultaneously using user information stored in a computer file associated with said user (see, for example, page 81, paragraphs 4-6, where a user's identity and its membership to any group is authenticated with a single log-on process that is functionally equivalent to the recited verifying computations are performed substantially simultaneously).

Regarding claims 2 and 14, Hadfield discloses:

further comprising the step of registering said user with at least one of said one or more groups (see, for example, page 29; page 101; page 110; page 275, last paragraph; page 281, paragraph 4, where setting up and creating a user account and

user groups corresponds to the recited registering a user...with a group(s)).

Regarding claims 3 and 15, Hadfield discloses:

wherein said registering step further comprises the step of said user and said at least one of said one or more groups exchanging a respective identifier (see, for example, page 29, paragraphs 3 and 4; page 102, paragraph 2; page 110; page 432, paragraph 5, where a password that correspond to the recited identifier is used to grant membership to a user a to a group).

Regarding claim 6, Hadfield discloses:

wherein said registering step further comprises the step of creating a registration identifier (see, for example, page 29; page 101; page 110; page 275, last paragraph; page 281, paragraph 4, where during the process of creating a user account and user groups, user/group ID or password that correspond to the recited registration identifier is created and assigned to a particular user or group).

Regarding claims 9 and 19, Hadfield discloses:

wherein said verifying computations are performed in a single operation based on the El Gamal public key algorithm (see, for example, page 170, paragraphs 1-4, where RSA encryption algorithm is employed for authentication process which is functionally equivalent to El Gamal public key algorithm and it is a matter of

implementation).

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Hadfield discloses:

wherein said user information is stored on a smart card that provides tamper-resistant features (see, for example, page 81, paragraphs 2 and 3).

Regarding claims 11 and 21, Hadfield discloses:

wherein said user information is stored in a memory of a computer (see, for example, page 33, paragraph 4; page 68, last paragraph; page 226, last 2 paragraphs; page 102, Fig. 4.1, where upon clicking Add button, the user information are saved on a disk or hard drive that represent a memory).

Regarding claim 12, Hadfield discloses:

wherein a user that satisfies said verifying computations is allowed to access a plurality of groups (see, for example, page 28, paragraph 2; page 29, paragraph 4; page 81, paragraph 4; page 110, paragraph 3; pages 112-113, where it demonstrate that an authenticated user has the same rights and permissions of the groups that the user has membership which corresponds to the recited user... allowed to access a plurality of groups).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8 and 16-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abdulhakim Nobahar whose telephone number is 571-272-3808. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 8-6.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abdulhakim Nobahar
Examiner
Art Unit 2132 *A.N.*

March 27, 2006

Gilberto Barron Jr.
GILBERTO BARRON JR.
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